



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Kremmling Field Office
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Kremmling, CO 80459



RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING #6

Tuesday, February 10, 2009 (5:30 – 8:30 PM)

**Kremmling Chamber Building
203 Park Avenue, Kremmling, CO**

SUMMARY NOTES

Attendees: Angie Adams (EMPSi), Clare Bastable (Northwest Resource Advisory Council), Susan Cassel (BLM KFO), Dennis Gale, Mike Garrett (public), Ken Fosha (public), Jim McDaniel (Good Chance Guided Hunts), Carol Peterson (grazing permittee), John Russell (BLM Glenwood Springs Field Office), Jerry Stahl (Grand County Wilderness Group), Dave Stout (BLM KFO), Joe Stout (BLM KFO), Holly Whitten, Andy Windsor (BLM KFO), Annie Sperandio BLM KFO)

Handouts:

- Agenda
- Summary Table of SRMAs and ERMAs, Kremmling Field Office RMP Revision – Draft
- Map: Alternative B RMAs (Recreation Management Areas) – DRAFT
- Map: Alternative C RMAs (Recreation Management Areas) – DRAFT
- Map: Alternative D RMAs (Recreation Management Areas) – DRAFT
- Headwaters SRMA – Working Draft for KFO RAC Subgroup February 2009
- Laramie River SRMA – Working Draft for KFO RAC Subgroup February 2009
- North Sand Hills SRMA – Working Draft for KFO RAC Subgroup February 2009
- Strawberry SRMA – Working Draft for KFO RAC Subgroup February 2009
- Upper Colorado River SRMA – Working Draft for KFO RAC Subgroup February 2009
- Wolford SRMA – Working Draft for KFO RAC Subgroup February 2009
- ERMAs (Extensive Recreation Management Areas) – Working Draft for KFO RAC Subgroup February 2009
- The Headwaters ERMA – Working Draft for KFO RAC Subgroup February 2009

WELCOME

Joe Stout (BLM) welcomed everyone and thanked them for their participation. This was followed by a round robin of introductions.

PLANNING PROCESS OVERVIEW (WHAT HAS HAPPENED SINCE OUR LAST MEETING) – Joe Stout, BLM KFO

- At the last meeting in February 2008, RAC Subgroup agreed to the range of alternatives. At the May 2008 Northwest RAC meeting, Clare Bastable presented to full RAC and got their buyoff on range of alternatives.
- BLM Kremmling Field Office (KFO) then worked on finishing development of alternatives. In June and July 2008 the BLM received the State Office review of alternatives, then KFO staff continued to refine the alternatives. Much of the recreation alternatives information that the RAC Subgroup worked on is

still in the range of alternatives. In December 2008, we finalized the draft alternatives so impact analysis could begin. BLM KFO and GSFO will review rough draft of impact analysis in late February 2009.

- Then the preliminary Draft RMP/EIS will be compiled and undergo Field Offices' review in May 2009. Then the DRAFT RMP/EIS will be revised and sent to the BLM Colorado State Office for review, then revised again, then sent to the BLM Washington Office for review, then revised, then released as public DRAFT RMP/EIS in the Fall 2009 for a 90-day public review period on DRAFT RMP/EIS (October – December 2009).
- Several BLM staff changes have occurred:
 - Bunny Sterin, recreation planner, has left BLM KFO.
 - Susan Cassel is the new Assistant Field Manager at KFO.
 - Joe Stout has accepted a new position with BLM in Washington DC office; last day at KFO is 2/20/09. Dennis Gale, former KFO employee, will be contracted to take Joe's place as the KFO planner on the RMP project.
 - John Russell is the new planner at GSFO. Former planner is still at GSFO so is still involved in the process.
- Role of RAC Subgroup: Role is, as an advisory group that gives BLM advice on range of alternatives on recreation. Subgroup assured the RAC that their interests were captured in a reasonable range of alternatives. Much of what the subgroup did is still in tact in the alternatives. The decisions are still in draft form and must go through several reviews before final decisions are made.
- What is shared with the subgroup tonight are internal drafts only and not meant to be shared with the larger public.

KREMMLING RECREATION DRAFT ALTERNATIVES (HANDOUTS WILL BE PROVIDED FOR THE SEPARATE SRMAS) – Andy Windsor, BLM KFO

- BLM is looking for big picture comments from the subgroup on the recreation alternatives, such as whether or not a reasonable range of alternatives is presented as draft at this point. Any comments from the subgroup should be made in writing to Andy Windsor or John Monkouski at KFO.
- Refer to PowerPoint presentation "RMP Revision Recreation Section Update" (file name "RRAC_update1_2-11-09.pptx")
- Draft surface use stipulations are now available in the draft alternatives; there is a stipulation proposed for Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMA).
- RAC Subgroup question: Would Pumphouse and Radium be examples of typical SRMAs? BLM: Developed facilities are not necessarily SRMAs. There must be a focus, desire and demand for managing activities, settings, and outcomes in order to be an SRMA. There can still be campgrounds and intensive recreation use areas within ERMAs.
- See handout "Summary Table of SRMAs and ERMAs, Kremmling Field Office RMP Revision – Draft."
- A few changes have been made to the SRMA/recreation alternatives since the last time the RAC Subgroup met in February 2008. The main one is that the North Park SRMA that was previously considered has since been deleted (and will be part of the larger Kremmling ERMA) because of existing oil and gas leases.
- As of now, Alternative B is the BLM preferred alternative. After 90-day public comment period on DRAFT RMP/EIS, then BLM can pick and choose different components of the various alternatives that were analyzed. That will build the Proposed RMP/Final EIS and Approved RMP/Record of Decision, which can be a combination of the alternatives considered at the DRAFT RMP/EIS stage.
- Stipulations for Surface-disturbing Activities: There are three major types of restrictions: NSO/no surface-disturbing activities (most restrictive); controlled surface use (move surface-disturbing activity more than 200 meters from a specific location); timing limitations (seasonal restrictions that are generally wildlife species specific). There are exceptions and waivers for each type of restriction.
- Travel management decisions were drafted after the remaining RMP decisions were drafted for other programs. BLM Colorado mandates that areas must be managed as designated routes. The other decisions guided the travel management, and KFO wants public comments on this. There will be a separate volume in DRAFT RMP/EIS that deals with travel management and will be available for public comment during 90-day public comment period on DRAFT RMP/EIS. Travel management decisions are implementation-level decisions, so are extremely detailed.

- BLM needs the RAC Subgroup's review of the draft materials handed out tonight. Please provide comments to Andy Windsor, especially with respect to whether or not a reasonable range of alternatives is presented as draft at this point. Please submit comments by March 31, 2009. Email to Andy_Windsor@blm.gov.

NEXT STEPS – WHAT ROLE DOES THE GROUP WANT TO PLAY DURING THE PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD?

- RAC Subgroup comment: Future steps beyond now (developing a reasonable range of recreation alternatives) would be a departure from what this RAC Subgroup was developed to do. Mission of the subgroup would change if subgroup wants to continue to be involved.
- If anything changes from what this subgroup reviewed tonight before the DRAFT RMP/EIS is published, then the BLM should notify the subgroup by giving them an email update or calling a meeting.
- All BLM RACs in Colorado will meet on February 26, 2009. One discussion item will be how best to engage RAC Subgroups throughout Colorado. Suggestions from this subgroup should be given to Andy Windsor (Andy_Windsor@blm.gov).
- Consider meeting again (potentially several times) during 90-day public review period on DRAFT RMP/EIS in Fall 2009.
- No future meetings were scheduled.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

- None.

NEXT MEETING

- No future meetings were scheduled.

ACTION ITEMS

- ☐ **Andy Windsor (BLM KFO):** Send SRMA and ERMA acreages to RAC Subgroup members to accompany the handout "Summary Table of SRMAs and ERMAs, Kremmling Field Office RMP Revision – Draft."
- ☐ **RAC Subgroup:** Review draft materials from tonight's meeting and submit written comments to Andy Windsor (Andy_Windsor@blm.gov) by March 31, 2009.
- ☐ **Dennis Gale (BLM KFO):** If anything changes from what this subgroup reviewed tonight before the DRAFT RMP/EIS is published, then BLM notify subgroup by giving them an email update or by calling a meeting.

Angie Adams – February 10, 2009

Annie Sperandio – February 18, 2009